

Johnnie Johnson helped write the book on rock 'n' roll piano, pounding the keys for most of the great Chuck Berry songs. But even though he's been playing his whole life, he didn't record on his own till last year's Johnnie B. Bad. At his first appearance here following the album's release, he showed up with his own tight group and proceeded to be spellbinding. His guitarist has a customized telecaster that gets sounds from outer space, and there's supposed to be special guests dropping into jam, but when Johnnie Johnson plays, you won't care about anything else. Zydeco Au Go Go led by local stalwart Pete Eshelman opens.

Johnnie Johnson with Zydeco Au Go Go: Fri., Aug. 7 at 8:30 and 11 p.m., at the Barbary Frankford and Delaware (Columbus) Aves., \$11, 739-3330.

--Peter Brown